

BEE GEES STARRING ROLE IN AFRICA-BASED PICTURE

Executive Director:
MAURICE KINN

Editor:
ANDY GRAY

Assistant Editor:
JOHN WELLS

News Editor:
DEREK JOHNSON

Advertisement
Manager:
PERCY C. DICKINS

**New
Musical
Express**

Proprietors:
New Musical Express Ltd.

15-17 LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Phone (for all Depts.)
01-240 2266 (10 lines)

Cable address:
Newmusex, London

NEW YORK: Inna Harris
315 West 57th Street, New York
N.Y. 10019.
Phone: 757-7871

HOLLYWOOD: Tracy Thomas
2024 Rosalia, Los Angeles
California, 90046.
Phone: (213) 656-7051

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The Bee Gees on Sunday morning just before leaving for America.

THE Bee Gees are to star in a big budget full-length feature film to be shot on location in Africa at the end of this year. Titled "Lord Kitchener's Little Drummer Boys," it has been commissioned by Nems Enterprises and will be a wide-screen production in colour. The group is writing the complete musical score as well as several songs it will perform in the picture.

Ryan twins signed in £100,000 film deal

PAUL and Barry Ryan—who this week make their first NME Chart appearance of 1967—have been signed to a £100,000 film deal by MGM, which guarantees them a minimum of three starring rôles during the next three years. They begin work on their first picture in Britain this autumn. This means a postponement of their American and Australian tours, tentatively set for the same period.

In their first movie, which has a work title of "Sentenced To Sing," the Ryans will have straight acting rôles as two delinquents. The

The story tells of five youngsters who enlist in the Army as boy musicians and subsequently become involved in a war. The screenplay is being written by Mike Pratt, who is particularly well-known for his TV scripts.

All the Bee Gees will have strong acting parts in the picture. This will not be a new experience for them as they acted regularly on Australian-TV prior to coming to this country. But the starring rôle is likely to fall to drummer Colin Petersen, who had the title rôle in the Australian film "Smiley" and appeared in the Max Bygraves' picture "Cry In The Streets."

The group left on Sunday for its two-week promotional visit to America. Plans for the filming of a half-hour TV colour show—based on the Bee Gees' first LP, and for location shooting in Europe—have been put back until after they return from the States.

Other Continental visits for the Bee Gees include a three-day trip to Scandinavia from July 20, and a promotional visit to Germany in mid-August.



PAUL and BARRY RYAN appearing in Light Programme's "Monday Monday" this week.

story—now being specially written for them in America—tells of twins who abscond from an approved school, and of their adventures on the run. Their true identity is revealed when they accidentally become famous.

The Ryans, who have been taking acting lessons for six months, took screen tests for MGM in Hollywood four weeks ago. Their film contract was brought back from America last weekend by their agent Harold Davison.

STONES TWO-WEEK CRASH RECORDINGS SCHEDULE

Star-packed summer, all

KATHY KIRBY is to star in her own BBC-1 series of six half-hour shows in the autumn, although the exact dates of transmission have not yet been set. The shows will probably follow the Dusty Springfield series beginning in mid-August.

Meanwhile, Kathy is showcased in her own TV spectacular, titled "Kate's" next Wednesday (12th), as part of BBC-2's "Something Special" series. The cast is all female and includes Libby Morris, the She Trinity and an all-girl orchestra led by Betty Smith.

Shirley Bassey's recent BBC-2 "Show Of The Week" is repeated tomorrow (Saturday). On the same channel next Friday (14th) Anthony Newley, Bobby Darin and Nancy Wilson guest in the "Andy Williams Show."

Tom Jones is set for a guest appearance in ATV's new audience-participation series "The Golden Shot" on Saturday, July 29. Nina and Frederik are booked for the first edition tomorrow (8th), and Julie Rogers guests in the August 12 show. Other bookings were reported last week.

Tom Jones is also in the first of ATV's "Dickie Valentine Show" series screened during the week of August 7—exact day varies according to region. As previously announced, Vince Hill is set for the second edition. The Breakaways are resident in the series.



KATHY KIRBY pictured during the filming of her BBC-2 show screening next week.

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OXYGEN AID FOR MONKEE collapses at concert, ill

OXYGEN equipment was rushed to Monty Mike Nesmith by Red Cross when he became ill after the group's matinee concert at the Wembley Empire. However, Mike's condition was reported to be improving and treatment he was able to take part in the evening performance without incident.

Peter Tork was also said to be suffering from strain and fatigue, but he did not require medical attention. In view of the group's hectic American concert itinerary starting this weekend—coupled with the pressure under which the Monkees have been working this year—a doctor will accompany them on their U.S. tour, starting today (Friday).

There has been an illness-and-injury "hoodoo" on the Monkees during their British visit. Apart from Nesmith and Tork's exhaustion, Micky Dolenz suffered from a heavy cold and Davy Jones cut his hand and hurt his ankle.

During their official London press conference the Monkees announced they hope to make their first feature film in this country early next year—as exclusively revealed in the NME three weeks ago. But they are still looking for a suitable story line and subject matter. The possibility of the group returning here this autumn for TV filming—as suggested by the NME last month—was not ruled out.

Jimmi Hendrix, who has been staying at Peter Tork's Los Angeles home, was involved in an accident this week while driving Peter's GTO car. Jimmi's right ankle was badly hurt and will have to be strapped up for his concert tour appearances with the Monkees. Peter's car was severely damaged, and the NME broke the news to him on Wednesday.

HOLLIES AUGUST U.S. TOUR WITH TURTLES

THE Hollies have been booked for a three-week American concert tour from August 28. They will co-star with U.S. group the Turtles—whose "She'd Rather Be With Me" hit is currently at No. 1 in the NME Chart, one place above the Hollies' "Carrie Anne." Also being negotiated for the tour is another leading American attraction, the Association.

Prior to this engagement the Hollies play a ten-day Swedish tour opening on August 10. This immediately follows a two-day appearance at Tivoli Club in Palma, Majorca.

On Tuesday the Hollies returned from a three-day visit to Yugoslavia. For their concert appearances in Zagreb they displayed a large banner on stage proclaiming "Love, Peace," and distributed them to the audience. They also wore black arm-bands in sympathy with the Jagger-Richard jail sentence.

The Hollies are being negotiated for a Sunday concert at London's Saville Theatre before embarking on their overseas commitments. John Walker and new U.S. tour Scott McKenzie are also being sought for the show.

Lead guitarist Tony Hicks has now fully recovered from the minor condition, for which he underwent a minor operation in London last month.

Move aids pirate radio campaign

THE Move top the bill in a "pop happening" at London's Alexandra Palace on Saturday, July 22. The Pretty Things are taking part in the event, which is titled "Free The Pirates" and sponsored by Radio Caroline.

From now on, the Move intend to work only three days every week. It is to give composer Roy Wood opportunity to write new material and to cut the risk of fatigue from excessive touring.

Latest one-nighter dates for the Move are Morecambe Central (tonight, Friday), London Marquee (Tuesday), Dewsbury College (Thursday), Bognor Regis (15th), Birmingham Silver Blades (17th) and King's Lynn Corn Exchange (21st).

Who disc salute to Jagger and Richard



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